

REMARKS

Claims 3-7 and 9-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 and 8 are canceled. New claim 12 is the same as cancelled claim 2, but depends from claim 3.

Applicants appreciate the Office Actions indication that claims 3 and 5-7 are allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,503 to Niiya et al. This rejection is moot.

Claims 4, 9 and 11 are amended to depend from allowed claim 3.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MQB/kzb

Date: March 17, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
